

will do well to consult the pages of 'The Wilson Bulletin' before rushing into print.—W. F. HENNINGER, *New Bremen, Ohio*.

The American and European Widgeons in Massachusetts.—In 'The Auk' for April, 1911, in writing of ten years' observations on migrating ducks at Wenham Lake, Mass., I reported four occurrences of the European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) and suggested that this species is probably more common than is usually supposed.

Those records ended with the year 1909, and since then I have accurate notes for nine additional years at the same place, a series of nineteen years in all. In 1911 no shooting was done and no records kept.

During those nine years seven more specimens of *M. penelope* have been taken among only seven specimens of *M. americana*, as follows:

1910—*M. americana*, 1.

1912—*M. americana*, 3; *M. penelope*, 1, on October 24.

1913—No Widgeon taken.

1914—*M. americana*, 0; *M. penelope*, 2, on November 21.

1915—No Widgeon taken.

1916—*M. americana*, 3; *M. penelope*, 4, October 20 and November 2.

1917—No Widgeon taken.

1918—No Widgeon taken.

1919—No Widgeon taken.

Total for the nine years—*M. americana*, 7; *M. penelope*, 7.

Total for 19 years—*M. americana*, 59; *M. penelope*, 11.

All specimens of the European species were in female plumage and showed both the typical rusty coloring of the head and the dark gray axillaries. It is very likely that some specimens of *M. penelope* were classed as *M. americana* in the early years of shooting at Wenham, before the diagnostic value of the axillars was learned.

On November 14, 1919, I noted one specimen of *M. penelope* hanging up in a duck blind on the south shore of Great Bay in the town of Greenland, N. H., not far north of the Massachusetts state line. This bird was also in female or in immature plumage. I was told that a small flock of twenty or thirty Widgeon had been feeding in Great Bay for several days, but this was the only one that had been shot. At Squibnocket Pond, Chilmark, Mass., which is situated at the southwest corner of Martha's Vineyard Island, out of 120 Widgeon taken between October 22 and December 10, 1919, one fine male of *M. penelope* was shot November 6. I examined all these Widgeon very carefully myself.

On December 8, 1919, I watched another full plumaged male *M. penelope* through a glass at close range, among a raft of many hundred Widgeon and Red-heads at Squibnocket.

It certainly seems that among the rare straggling Widgeon which appear irregularly east of Boston, at Wenham, *M. penelope* is at least relatively more abundant than among the Martha's Vineyard birds. Can it be

that *M. penelope* comes mostly down the coast from the northeast, perhaps from Greenland, while our *M. americana* arrives from the West? This would explain the apparent increase of the European bird by continuous increments from some far northeastern breeding ground.

It is also remarkable that we have never noted a full plumaged male Widgeon, either *americana* or *penelope*, at Wenham Lake, whereas at the "Vineyard" full plumaged males are much in evidence as early as mid-October. Probably those individuals occurring east of Boston, at Wenham, are young birds of the year which are much more likely to straggle beyond their regular migration route; the normal range of *americana* reaching only to Martha's Vineyard.

It may be worth while to note here that the American Widgeon, which is generally considered an irregular and scarce migrant all over Massachusetts, is really a very common duck on the south shore of Martha's Vineyard Island, frequenting Squibnocket and Black Point ponds as well as Poucha Pond on Chappaquiddick Isle.

The first *M. americana* arrived this year (1919) at Squibnocket on August 31 (six or eight birds). By September 15 there were thirty in the pond and on the 21st about seventy-five. During October the numbers increased to 1500 or 1800 and at times in November to possibly 2000. They never spend the night in Squibnocket but fly to other and better feeding grounds at dark. This body of Widgeon usually remains, so I am told, until driven out by ice.—J. C. PHILLIPS, *Wenham, Mass.*

Whistling Swan (*Olor columbianus*) in Massachusetts.—On November 6, 1919, I saw a flock of seven swans at Squibnocket Pond on Martha's Vineyard Isle, in the town of Chilmark, Mass. They were still in the pond on the following day and residents told me they had already been there several days when I first saw them. They left on November 10 or 11.

This is the largest flock of Whistling Swans that I recall for Massachusetts, most of the records having been for single birds. Mr. John E. Thayer received two swans from this same pond in 1906, shot on November 28 and 29. Three swans were observed at Squibnocket within the past few years, but I have not the exact date. This pond has a good supply of Widgeon grass and musk grasses, with some wild celery, and could probably furnish good feeding ground for swans.

So far as I know these seven swans were not persecuted and left for the south in as good condition as when they arrived. The recent marked increase of the Whistling Swan in Currituck Sound, N. C., where it is said to be doing considerable damage to ducking property, may account for its more frequent occurrence in Massachusetts.—J. C. PHILLIPS, *Wenham, Mass.*

Habits of the Two Black Ducks, *Anas rubripes rubripes* and *Anas rubripes tristis*—This past autumn of 1919, while shooting at